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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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B-178152

May 30, 1973

The Honorable James R. Schlesinger  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Mr. Schlesinger:

The Honorable Edward I. Koch, of the House of Representatives had referred to us for a ruling copies of correspondence with your office and certain material which appeared in the Congressional Record for February 6, 1973, page H726 and March 5, 1973, pages H1352-1353, which was prompted by an article in the New York Times for December 17, 1972, which stated that fourteen New York policemen had received training from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in September.

Because of an informal contact from your office we suggested that a statement be sent from your office as to exactly what was done and the specific statutory authority relied upon therefor. As a result, we received a letter dated March 16, 1973, from your Deputy General Counsel which enclosed (1) an extract of the Congressional Record for March 5, 1973, supra, that contained Congressman Chet Holifield's discussion and report of the inquiry into the matter by the House Committee on Government Operations at the request of Congressman Koch, together with related correspondence and (2) a copy of Congressman Koch's letter of December 28, 1972, to the CIA and a copy of the response of January 29, 1973, signed by your Legislative Counsel. It was stated that it would appear that all the information needed was contained in those enclosures. We were also assured that the CIA does not run a formal institution for training of police officers in the manner of the FBI Academy located at "Fort Belvoir." (The FBI Academy is located at Quantico, Virginia.)

It is noted that the Congressional Record for March 5, 1973, page 1353 also includes related remarks of Congressman Lucien N. Nedzi, Chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Intelligence, House Committee on Armed Services, as to the activity of that Subcommittee in the matter, in which he emphasizes that the basic jurisdiction in CIA matters remains with the Armed Services Committee, and that the Subcommittee has been diligent in fulfilling its responsibilities. He also stated that he shared the view "that the CIA should refrain from domestic law enforcement activities and that some of the activities described by our colleague, Mr. Koch, and the agency itself could have been performed much more appropriately by other agencies."

On file GAO release instructions apply.

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It appears from the material referred to above that within the last two years less than fifty police officers from a total of about a dozen city and county police forces have received some kind of CIA briefing.

As to the New York police it appears that with the assistance of the Ford Foundation an analysis and evaluation unit was developed within the Intelligence Division of the New York City police department. At the suggestion of a Ford Foundation representative it sought assistance from the CIA as to the best system for analyzing intelligence. Although the CIA's techniques and procedures involve only foreign intelligence they were considered basic and applicable to the needs of the New York police. A 4-day briefing was arranged at which a group of New York City police was briefed on the theory and technique of analyzing and evaluating foreign intelligence data, the role of the analyst, and the handling and processing of foreign intelligence information.

The briefing was given by a CIA training staff, based upon material used in training the CIA analysts and without any significant added expense. Specific guidance was not given as to how the New York City police system should be set up but the CIA presented its basic approach.

CIA assistance to local law enforcement agencies has been of two types. In the first type of assistance one or two officers received an hour or two of briefing on demonstration of techniques. Police officers from six local or State jurisdictions came to CIA headquarters for this type of assistance. In the second type of assistance, the briefing lasted for 2 or 3 days. Instruction was given in such techniques as record handling, clandestine photography, surveillance of individuals, and detection and identification of metal and explosive devices. Nine metropolitan or county jurisdictions sent officers for this type of instruction. Assistance given was at no cost to the recipients and has been accomplished by making available, insofar as their other duties permit, qualified CIA experts and instructors. Cost to the CIA has been minimal.

It is stated that all briefings have been conducted in response to the requests of the various recipients. It is also stated that the CIA intends to continue to respond to such requests within its competence and authority to the extent possible without interfering with its primary mission.

No provision of that part of National Security Act of 1947, as amended, 50 U.S.C. 403, et seq., which established the Central Intelligence Agency has been cited as authority for the activities undertaken and our examination of that law fails to disclose anything which reasonably

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could be construed as authorizing such activities. However, in his letter of January 29, 1973, to Congressman Koch, your Legislative Counsel stated that these activities were entirely consistent with the provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. 3701, et seq. He noted that in 42 U.S.C. 3701 it was the declared policy of the Congress "to assist State and local governments in strengthening law enforcement at every level" and that it was the purpose of that law to "encourage research and development directed toward the improvement of law enforcement and the development of new methods for the prevention and reduction of crime and the detection and apprehension of criminals." 42 U.S.C. 3721. He also noted that in the same law at 42 U.S.C. 3756 Congress authorized the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to use available services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of the Department of Justice and of "other civilian and military agencies and instrumentalities" of the Federal Government to carry out its function. It should also be noted that the section authorizes such use on a reimbursable basis.

There is nothing in the Omnibus Crime and Safe Streets Act of 1968 which authorizes a Federal agency of its own volition to provide services which it is not otherwise authorized to provide. As previously stated there is nothing in the legislation establishing the CIA which would authorize the activities in question. Neither does it appear that those services, equipment, personnel, and facilities utilized were utilized by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration or even at its request. As stated by Congressman Holifield in his letter of February 23, 1973, to you and quoted in the Congressional Record for March 5, 1973:

\* \* \* Since the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration is the agency primarily concerned with such matters, particularly where Federal assistance funds are involved, it would seem that the need for Federal agency assistance to local law enforcement agencies should be coordinated by that Administration.

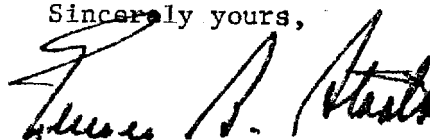
In that same letter of February 23, 1973, Congressman Holifield invited attention to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968, Pub. L. 90-577, 82 Stat. 1102, approved October 16, 1968, 42 U.S.C. 4201, et seq., as implemented by Budget Circular No. A-97 of August 29, 1969. Among the purposes of title III of that act, as stated in section 301 thereof, is to authorize all departments and agencies of the executive branch of the Federal Government--which do not otherwise have such authority--to provide reimbursable specialized or technical services to State and local governments. Section 302 of the act states that such

services shall include only those which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through rules and regulations determines Federal departments and agencies have a special competence to provide. Budget Circular No. A-97 covers specific services which may be provided under the act and also provides that if a Federal agency receives a request for specialized or technical services which are not specifically covered and which it believes is consistent with the act and which it has a special competence to provide, it should forward such request to the Bureau of the Budget (now Office of Management and Budget) for action. The same procedure is to be followed if there is doubt as to whether the service requested is included within the services specifically covered. Section 304 requires an annual summary report by the agency head to the respective Committees on Government Operations of the Senate and House of Representatives on the scope of the services provided under title III of the act. Possibly future requests for briefings from State or local police agencies could be considered under the provisions of that act and the implementing budget circular.

In the letter of January 29, 1973, to Congressman Koch from your Legislative Counsel it is also stated that the activities in question were not considered to violate the letter or spirit of the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947 which states that "the Agency shall have no police, subpoena, law enforcement powers, or internal-security functions." See 50 U.S.C. 403(d)(3). We do not regard the activities as set out above as being in violation of these provisions, but as previously indicated, we have found no authority for those activities by your agency, unless provided on a reimbursable basis in accordance with the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968, or at the request of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration under the provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, which was not the case here.

Copies of this letter are being sent to the Members of Congress referred to above.

Sincerely yours,



Comptroller General  
of the United States

cc: Congressman Edward I. Koch  
Chairman, House Committee on Government  
Operations  
Chairman, Special Subcommittee on Intelligence  
House Committee on Armed Services

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